Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Method of preparing liquid nitrate esters, characterized in that an alcohol solution and a nitrating acid are mixed in a microreactor.

2. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is at least 50 µm.

3. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is at least 100 µm.

4. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is not more than 3000 µm.

5. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is not more than 1000 µm.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the flow of the liquids in the microreactor is laminar.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the flow of the liquids in the microreactor has a Reynolds number of < 1000.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains microstructured passive mixing structures.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1~~

~~to 8~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains T- or Y-mixing structures.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains glass or silicon as material.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains metal, ceramic or enamel as material.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the method is performed under isothermal conditions.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 12~~ Claim 1, characterized in the microreactor employs the split-and-recombine principle or the multilamination principle.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1, characterized in that a monohydric or polyhydric alcohol is used as alcohol.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1, characterized in that glycerol is used as alcohol.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 15~~ Claim 1, characterized in that a mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid and concentrated nitric acid in a weight ratio of 0.8:1 to 1.2:1 is used as nitrating acid, wherein the sulfuric acid may in turn contain up to 10 wt % oleum.

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 16~~ Claim 1, characterized in that glycerol is used as alcohol and the molar ratio of HNO_3 to glycerol is 3:1 to 10:1.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 17~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of a mono-, di- or polynitrate ester.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 17~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of trinitroglycerol or glycyl dinitrate ester.